Waggle Dance

Issue 1: Friday afternoon **newsletter@mancunicon.org.uk**

Welcome

Hello and welcome to Mancunicon, the 67th Eastercon. I hope that you'll have a great time over the weekend, in the company of our four outstanding Guests of Honour: Aliette de Bodard, David L Clements, Ian McDonald, and Sarah Pinborough.

Please make sure to look through your copy of the Read Me, and remember that this convention is entirely run by volunteers: if you can spare some time, come along to the Gopher Hole and see if you can help us out.

The password for the convention wifi is guest2016

–Pat McMurray, Chair

(Semi-)Serious Lectures

The 2016 BSFA Lecture will be given by Rachel Dickinson of Manchester Metropolitan University. She will speak on *Crafting the Future: Ruskin, Textiles and Visions of Futures Past* at 11:30am on Saturday, in Deansgate 3.

The 2016 Hay Lecture will be given by Colin Wright, who will speak on *The Mathematics of Juggling* at 1pm on Saturday, also in Deansgate 3.

Food and Drink News

Lunch service run from noon to 2pm, rather than as listed in the Read Me. There are vegetarian burgers and sausages available if you ask, as well as GF and DF breakfast options.

The convention food is being served (at the same prices) in the ground floor bar, as well as the Real Ale bar.

We have a tonne and a half of Real Ale and half a tonne of Real Cider to get through this weekend, arranged by Martin Hoare. He's prepared a list of the beers available, with tasting notes, and you can find copies of this in the Real Ale bar, as well as at *mancunicon.org.uk/beer-list*.

The hotel has also created a pop-up American Craft Beer Bar, in the ground floor bar area. They've done it just for us, so go and give them a try!

Car Parking

If you've got your car booked into the NCP car park and would like to leave for a side visit before the end of your booking, just say you're "with the sci fi convention" at the exit and they'll raise the barrier for you.

Door Problems

We're really sorry to report that the accessible door to the hotel lobby isn't working. If you can't use the revolving door, please go around to the restaurant and call 0161 870 1787 to let them know you need assistance. We've been promised that the restaurant staff will be looking out for people needing help: if the system isn't working, please let Ops know.

Art Show

You'll find the Art Show on the first floor, next to the main programme rooms. If you come along this evening at 7:30pm, you can be there with the artists for the official launch of the Show.

Free wine! Make sure to come along!

Tomorrow, the *Meet the Artists* session will run from 2-4pm, although the artists will drop in and out as their other commitments dictate.

Tech Questions

If you have a question for the tech crew, please don't interrupt the people in black hi-viz. Instead, look out for the Valkyries in their lovely purple hi-viz.

Pharmacy Check

Google maps is wrong about the nearest chemist: it's actually Cameolord, at 7 Oxford Street. (The nearest one is just an office.)

Dealer News

Remember that there are two Dealers' Rooms this year: one, which also contains the Art Show, next to the main programme rooms and the other around the corner by the fan tables.

All dealers will accept groats.

Speaking of dealers, there is a limited supply of the fabulous Mancunicon t-shirts, designed by Alison Scott, available for £12. You'll find them on Judi Hodgkin's table, which is by the entrance to the Art Show.

Clothe Yourself!

Tomorrow morning's *Life Drawing of a Costumer* workshop would appreciate your help: if anyone would like to volunteer to be a costumed life model, please go to Green Room at 9:45am tomorrow. The workshop runs until noon.

Critical Criticism…

The Science Fiction Foundation will be running two mini-Masterclasses in SF Criticism. At 7pm on Sunday in Room 10, Kari Sperring will lead a discussion of Liz Williams' *The Banquet of the Lords of Light*. At 11.30am on Monday in Room 10, Andrew M Butler will lead a discussion of Charlotte Perkins Gilman's *If I Were a Man*. Places are limited to ten for each session: please sign up in Ops from noon on the previous day.

…and Writerly Workshops

The Manchester Speculative Fiction writing group will be holding a writers' workshop at 10am on Saturday in Room 10. This item will be open to those who have submitted work in advance, to existing members of the MSFG and to interested members who were unable to submit but would still like to meet the group.

Pool Rules

Please remember that under-16s are only allowed in the hotel swimming pool when in the company of an over-18, who can be responsible for up to two under-16s at any time.

The pool will be open from 8am to 8pm on Friday and Monday, and from 6am to 10pm on other days. Remember that there are non-convention guests staying in the hotel this weekend!

From Twitter

Every time I see @Mancunicon my brain changes it to mancunicorn and now I need someone with artistic skills to draw one ;)

—@pipsytip

[Happy to oblige!—Sue Mason]

Programme Changes

The programme item at 5:30pm on Friday, listed as *African SF and Fantasy*, has been re-titled *The Light African Fantastic*. It will feature Geoff Ryman (m), Ayodele Arigbabu, Tendai Huchu and Jennifer Nansubuga Makumbi.

Aaaand… Run Around!

At the request of the tech gods, the programme items taking place in Deansgates 2 and 3 on Saturday between 11:30am and 3:30pm have all been swapped.

This means that Deansgate 2 will now feature *A Feminist Fantasy Canon* (11:30am), *Balancing the Creative Life* (1pm) and *A Tribute to Tanith Lee* (2:30pm).

Deansgate 3, on the other hand, will be delighting you with *Crafting the Future: Ruskin, Textiles and Visions of Futures Past* (the BSFA Lecture) (11:30am), *The Mathematics of Juggling* (the Hay Lecture) (1pm) and a *Cooking Demonstration with Aliette de Bodard* (2:30pm).

This issue was produced by Flick, with help from Jan van 't Ent, Steve Davies, Marianne Cain, Mike Scott and Pat McMurray (might as well put him to work). Masthead by Sue Mason. This issue produced on the M6 and in Low Earth Orbit. Look out for us in the bar under the sign of the moose tomorrow!

Waggle Dance

Issue 2: Saturday midday

newsletter@mancunicon.org.uk

From the Chair

Please keep the walkway and cross bridges outside Deansgate tidy and clear of obstructions to avoid access issues.

People are also having problems going to and from the lifts through the bar, and we'd be grateful if you could leave a clear passage.

As you may have noticed, the programme rooms are very busy. To make it fair for everyone, one person can only occupy one seat and not save empty seats for other people. Please listen to the stewards if they tell you that an item is full.

Speaking of which, we do need more gophers. If you would like to volunteer for an hour or two, please come to the gopher lounge on Level 1.

From the Feedback Session

We're experiencing a few teething problems.

The committee are going to talk to the hotel about trying to open up the fire escape stairs so you don't have to wait 20 minutes to go down one floor. In the meantime, note that the lifts and corridors are very busy between items and plan your travel accordingly.

Also, please be sensible using the lifts: if the overweight buzzer sounds when you get in, it's not going to move until you get out.

The committee have spoken to the hotel about the con food regular (non-brioche) burger buns will now be available at the convention food points if you ask. Non-brioche buns are vegan, brioche buns aren't. Sandwiches and chocolate will be available at the downstairs bar as well as upstairs. If you have food complaints, please talk to the hotel at the time so they can help right away.

Paper versions of the convention menu will be available at all food points: if you can't see one, please ask.

Paper towels and bins will be put into the disabled loos as has been requested.

Upstairs, Downstairs

The Newsletter team are sometimes in the downstairs bar under the sign of the Moose. There's a box for submissions in Ops, please use it or send email to dancewaggle@gmail.com

Manchester. Rain. No Surprise

The Met Office is currently forecasting that Storm Katie is going to hit southwest England and Wales in the early hours of Monday morning with gusts of up to 65 mph. Aren't you glad you're in the northwest where it just rains all the time? However, be aware of possible travel disruption on your journey home.

Wi-Fi Issues

The password for the wi-fi is still guest2016. Don't use it all at once, they aren't making it any more.

Buy All The Stuff

The Fan Fund Auction at 4pm on Sunday in Room 8&9 includes a number of choice items including:

- Fishlifter Stout brewed by Seattle fans and donated by the Fishlifters;
- Real Morporkian chocolate donated by Malcolm Hutchison.

Tech Questions

Tech would like would to apologise for the unscheduled creative lighting differences. It won't happen again.

Apology

We are sorry for referring to the lift buzzer as 'overweight'. It wants us to know that it's just big-boned.

Restaurant Reviews

Home Sweet Home
235 Deansgate

If you head up Deansgate to the Great Northern Square, alongside the trendy-looking bar/restaurants is one that stands out from the crowd. Home Sweet Home does what only can be described as "American Comfort Food", playing with sweet/savoury combinations. Chicken and Waffles was a wonderful combo of chicken, bacon, waffles and pepper sauce with maple syrup, while the fish tacos were light but not skimpy. The kids menu offered interesting things for a fiver and we left stuffed but impressed at a cost of around £45 for three. Not what we would call allergy friendly. Fans leery of vegetables will be in heaven.

Indian Tiffin Room
1 First Street M15 4RL

Very nice street food, curry.

KoopaCon

A bid to hold the 2017 Eastercon In the Kuiper Belt

Hunan Restaurant
1st floor, 19-21 George Street
www.hunanrestaurant.co.uk

Chinatown is about 15 minutes walk from the hotel and it's full of interesting restaurants. The Hunan was superb, but this isn't your common or garden Cantonese. They'll cook standard restaurant food if you insist, but this is a place where you'll want to eat *a la carte*. Don't go for the banquet or the Cantonese section. They specialise in the Xiang food of Hunan province. This has a lot of chili in it, vegetarian dishes, smoked bacon and tofu, garlic and hot pots. The restaurant is very friendly and was happy to make dishes with less chili for those of us with a low tolerance. We can recommend: mixed preserved duck egg & beancurd, stir fried aubergine with string beans. If you really want to go off-piste, they have a vast array of offal dishes including more sorts of spicy tripe than you would think possible. Chinese food will never be the same again.

Evuna
277 Deansgate

The Evuna tapas bar, just a couple of minutes along this side of Deansgate. Very good tapas, with a lunchtime offer of three for £9.99.

[NB: Evuna are fully booked tonight—Ed]

Programme Changes

The San Jose in 2018 Worldcon bid will be holding a party in the Convention bar this evening from 9:30pm. Go and ask them about their bid and they'll reward you with a groat!

An Adventure in Time and Space: 53 Years in 53 Rels will be starting at 9pm, not 8:30pm, this evening in Deansgate 2&3.

The kaffeeklatsch with Sebastien de Castell will take place this evening at 8:30pm, not 8pm as originally listed.

Disco Surprise! There will be a surprise disco on Saturday night from 10pm in Deansgate 2&3, DJ'ed by the lovely Jo Playford.

Sadly, the showing of *Adventurados* at 8:30pm on Saturday has been cancelled. Instead, as a tribute to the late Alan Rickman, we'll be showing *Galaxy Quest* at the planned time.

Ocean Treasure
Watson Street M3 4LP

(Chinese/Thai/Vietnam) good on seafood, veggie.

And Finally

Amazing Bee Facts! Male bees develop from unfertilised eggs, meaning they only have one parent. So their family tree is the Fibonacci sequence.

This issue was produced by Steve, with help from Flick, Jan van 't Ent, Alison Scott, Marianne Cain and beer. Masthead by Sue Mason. This issue produced by warping unexpectedly between the bar and the Secret *Plokta* Penthouse Suite. We've never had orchids in the newsletter room before! Look out for the pirate moose and crossbones flag

Waggle Dance

Issue 3: Saturday evening **newsletter@mancunicon.org.uk**

A Safe-For-Work Apology

Queering Heroic Fantasy (8:30pm, Room 6), despite our erroneous assumption, is going to be a completely child-friendly discussion: we're very sorry that we didn't check before we wrote the note in the Read Me.

—The Chair

Bee and Wasp Spotters' Guide

Several Mancunicon members have asked us how to tell the difference between bees and wasps. Bees are entirely benign and really pretty useful, providing honey and wax. It's the evil wasps you need look out for, with their country homes, their old money, and their attraction to jugs of Pimm's.

Spend! Spend! Spend!

At the Fan Fund Auction, tomorrow at 4pm in Rooms 8&9, the items up for grabs will include two fabulous donations from Gollancz of particular interest to budding SF authors: a half hour session in the bar with either Marcus Gipps (Gollancz commissioning editor) or Gillian Redfearn (Gollancz publishing editor).

Thank you to Gollancz, and thank you in advance to everyone who bids.

Take your Groats to the Bar

Please stop hoarding your groats! We're running out of the physical tokens, so we need you to spend them so that we can put them back into circulation.

By now, all area heads should have told their staff that groats are being given out at the rate of £2 per hour of work: oops, we accidentally deflated the groat!

Beeblebears United!

Unaccountably, no official Beeblebears' Picnic has been arranged this year. The Garklets have two lovely beeblebears who were hoping to meet up with their compatriots, so please come along with your drinks and cakes to the convention bar on Sunday at 3:30pm.

—Isobel Stark

Birthday Wishes

Very long standing fan Peter Mabey recently reached his 90th birthday. Not only has he been attending Eastercons for many years but he was one of the earliest BSFA members.

(He is listed in the original BSFA Membership Register 1958-1972, which Dave Lally will be happy to show you if you would like to have a look). He was also the first winner of the Doc Weir Award (remember to vote! This year's ballot form is in your membership pack) as well as being one of the people behind Loncon, the first UK Worldcon.

If you'd like to join in with wishing him a happy birthday, please sign the card at the Registration desk.

Beezarre

Female honey bees are more closely related to their sisters than to their daughters. Which is kind of weird.

Artistic Endeavours

Two local SFnal art exhibits are worth looking at: *AL and AL: Incidents of Travel in the Multiverse* (*goo.gl/iN2OH8*) and *The Imitation Game* (*goo.gl/QADlf2*), which Colin Fine reviewed for us:

The exhibits include a school project made from several PCs and various other components; a small robot that roams the room under the partial control of visitors in another room; and two wheelchair-shaped robots, which are apparently playing out a love story in plaintive little strips of paper from their thermal printers. Very enjoyable and worth a visit!

Knit (or not) and Natter

Bring your craft project for a drop-in gathering to work on your project and chat with like-minded folk. Sunday at 11am, in the chairs on the ground floor under the spiral staircase.

All welcome!

Satellite to 5K

If you are attending Satellite 5 you may or may not be aware that Christine Davidson and I have challenged you to get fitter and join us for a run or walk at the convention. In preparation, why not have a go at Couch to 5K, or (if you fancy something gentler) BUPA's Walk to Run programme. If anyone fancies a chat, some encouragement or more information I will be sitting in the Ground Floor bar from 11am to noon on Sunday morning: please join me.

—Julia Daly

Gratuitous Plug

Follycon, the happening bid for the 2018 Eastercon, wants you to try "I-Spy at the Eastercon", a spotter's guide to all the fun things you can do at Mancunicon. You can get your copy by asking someone carrying the Follycon con-in-a-bag, or download it from *tinyurl.com/ispypdf*. Once you've scored 150 points, come along to the Follycon registration desk tomorrow downstairs *[that's a bit presumptious, isn't it, chaps? —Ed]* and you can get your own very exclusive Follycon I-Spy Club badge.

From the Archives

This did not help the tranquillity of chief editor ~~Abigail Frost~~ Flick, who at fifteen-second intervals would light another ciggy from the last one and issue great ululating cries of, "Will you please fucking *go away*, I need *absolute quiet* to compose my hard-hitting apology about the real beer running out again…."

Memo: produce ~~an Abigail Frost~~ Flick Phrasebook to assist future newsletter teams. Mild-mannered ~~Vincent Clarke~~ Pat McMurray needn't have looked so shaken if he'd known in advance that "Fuck off and DIE!!!" means only, "Excuse me, I am trying to concentrate on typing this."

ansible.uk/writing/conquass.html#01

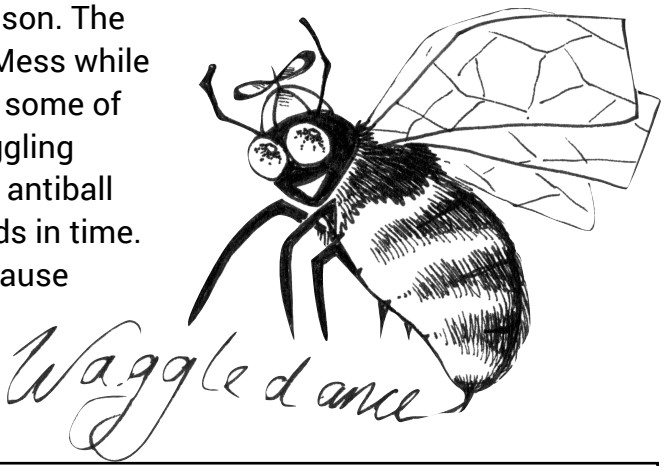
More Balls

You've missed it now, but the Hay lecture, on juggling maths, was very cool, writes Intrepid Austin Benson. The chap can do Mills Mess while talking. Apparently some of the modern day juggling patterns require an antiball that goes backwards in time. But that's okay because quantum.

Programme Changes

We inadvertently missed a line from the programme grids. Tonight from 1am to 2am, we have the following items:

- Wibbley Wobbley, Timey-wimey Stuff: the Doctor Who TARDIS Panel (Room 6: it's bigger on the inside)
- Critical Path Analysis in the works of JRR Tolkien with Caroline M (Deansgate 2&3)
- Live Satellite Link with Santa Fe: George RR Martin tells us the full explanation of the ending of Game of Thrones (Room 7) *[That room's got 17 chairs; do you think that will be enough? —Ed]*
- Practical Horology Workshop: learn how to adjust your clock. Limited spaces available, please sign up at Ops (Room 8&9)
- How to Fill a Lot of Space in a Newsletter at Very Short Notice: the Waggle Dance Team (Room 10)
- Chair's Special Party: Pat is running a party for everyone at the con *[that's quite enough of that —Ed]*



This issue was produced by Flick, with help from ~~Jan van 't Ent~~ Mike Scott, Alison Scott, Steve Davies and Giulia De Cesare and Marianne Cain. Masthead by Sue Mason. Critical Path Analysis joke ©Beccon 1987, because we're not proud. Are we allowed to say 'fuck' in the newsletter if we're quoting Dave Langford?

Waggle Dance

Issue 4: Sunday afternoon **newsletter@mancunicon.org.uk**

BSFA Awards

The BSFA awards were announced last night, as follows:

Best Art Work: Jim Burns, *Pelquin's Comet*.

Best Non-Fiction: Adam Roberts, *Rave and Let Die: the SF and Fantasy of 2014*.

Best Short Story: Aliette de Bodard, "Thirty Cups of Grief, by Starlight".

Best Novel: Aliette de Bodard, *House of Shattered Wings*.

There were 145 votes cast.

Restaurant Reviews

Bollywood Masala

15 Liverpool Road

We recommend the Bollywood Masala restaurant, almost opposite the hotel up Liverpool Road. Good inventive Indian cuisine—filling too.

—Ramsey Campbell

Seconded: nice portions, good quality, great price; chicken jalfrezi was well-cooked soft meat in a wonderful curry; fish garahi was very well done too; and for everything, including drinks, we paid less than £15.

—Nesa Sivagnanam

Ox and Noble

71 Liverpool Road

This pub (almost opposite the Science Museum) serves a traditional English roast lunch, all day. The steak and ale pie was very rich, well-cooked, and came in big portions. The fish and chips were very nice as well, and if you order a full course with dessert you can add side dishes for £3 if you're still peckish. The pub also serves a nice selection of ciders.

—Nesa Sivagnanam

Almost Famous

100-102 High Street

Although it took a while for them to seat us, the food is fantastic if you can spare the time. Burgers are great, fries are amazing, and the wings are, to use an underrated word, awesome!

—John Coxon

Overheard in the Lift

Random member of the public: "There are lots of people with that kind of badge: are you here together?"

Hazel Newman: "Yes, it's a science fiction convention."

RMOP: "Oh… I thought you were bee-keepers."

Lost and Found

A walking stick was left in the Presidential Suite on Saturday. If you would like to claim it, please go to Ops.

Programme changes

Virginia Preston and Phil Nanson have been added to *Criminality in SF&F* (Monday at 2:30pm), but Chaz Brenchley can't make it.

Alison Sinclair has been added to *The Deeper the Grief, the Closer to Life* (Monday at 11.30am).

Claire Goodall's item on *Ancient Music and Storytelling* at 8:30pm on Sunday is about the Iliad, if you were wondering what it's all about.

And Relax

Today's first programme item, a non-demoninational service in Rooms 8&9 was apparently not disturbed by nationalist demons…. Phew!

Rocky Horror Tonight

Dancing in the aisles: yes!

Dancing on the stage: no!

(It wobbles when you walk on it, so it's probably best not to risk it.)

Freebee Table

There are still books available on the freebie table, which is with the fan tables on the 1st floor. Come and get some.

Up The Walls of the World

Gillis Lundgren, the designer of IKEA's Billy bookcase, has died. He was 86. The Newsletter team have dozens of Billies between us, and we're sure Mancunicon's members must collectively have thousands.

Gophers

The convention still needs more gophers. Go to the Gopher Hole to volunteer.

Fan Fund Auction Plug #3

The fan fund auction, which takes place at 4pm today, will include a couple of very special items from Mancunicon guest of honour Ian McDonald.

First is a "Tuckerisation", the winner of which will have a character in the third volume of Ian's Luna series named after them. Ian has promised the character will die in a most unpleasant way. We hope the same fate will not befall the auction winner.

Ian has also donated the script of the screenplay for *Necroville*, which was optioned for a movie, but never actually made. Ian says the script is better than the novel.

Also in the auction is a rare copy of Ian R MacLeod's novel *Frost on Glass*. Most copies of the first printing got pulped after the wrong file got sent to the printer, but we managed to nab one.

Easterconalia

The new 2017 Eastercon (replacing Pasgon, which has had to cancel) will be **Eastercon 2017** (aka Innominate) from 14 to 17 April 2017, chaired by Steve Cooper. It will be in the Hilton Birmingham Metropole at Birmingham International station and the NEC. The Guests of Honour are Pat Cadigan, Judith Clute and Colin Harris. The full adult attending membership is £55, in a special introductory offer that will be short-lived. Lower rates are available for children, young adults and the unemployed. Hotel room rates are £100 for a twin/double room including breakfast and VAT. You can join at their desk on the ground floor, where Mancunicon registration was. The website is not yet operational, but will be at *www.eastercon2017.uk*.

The 2018 Eastercon will be **Follycon** from 30 March to 2 April 2018, chaired by Alison Scott. It will be held in the Majestic Hotel in Harrogate. Guests of Honour are Kieron Gillen, Christina Lake, Nnedi Okorafor and Kim Stanley Robinson. Full adult attending membership is £60 until at least 30 November this year, with lower rates for children, young adults and those unwaged for whom paying £60 would be difficult.

Hotel room rates are £115 for a twin/double room, including breakfast and VAT. They also have a desk on the ground floor, but the preferred way of joining is on their website at *www.follycon.org.uk*. Come to the desk if you want to pay with cash or a cheque.

Pasgon members can obtain cheques refunding their membership from the Pasgon desk in the fan table area until 4pm today.

Getting Buzzed

Cocaine turns bees into big fat liars. Bees "dance" to communicate—a way of giving fellow bees directions to good food. But high honeybees exaggerate their moves and over-emphasise the food's quality. They even exhibit withdrawal symptoms

Glasses

Please do not take glasses ~~into the pool~~ outside the hotel.

Flick is a trifle jet-lagged by the time change, so this issue was produced by emergency editorial hologram Mike Scott, with help from Jan van 't Ent and Erik Olson, and not much help from Flick. Masthead and fillo by Sue Mason. It's Sunday afternoon and we're still alive.

Waggle Dance

Issue 5: Sunday evening **newsletter@mancunicon.org.uk**

Pyjama Party

The hotel will be testing the fire alarm system on Monday morning at 11am. It will sound for three seconds, two or three times. Please do not evacuate unless the alarm sounds continuously. Please do evacuate if it does.

Could Try Harder

If we want the real ale bar to stay open later, we all need to drink faster. This means you, now, tonight.

"Gosh, Peter Mabey is Game, Isn't He?"

Peter Mabey, with creditable honesty, points out that he wasn't actually involved with the running of the first Loncon. But he did help organise Loncon 2.

Waspish Correction

On behalf of the hundreds of wasp species that don't try to steal your sandwiches, many of whom do very useful jobs for us (including pest control and pollination), please can you retract your description of all wasps as evil. *Hymenoptera** are awesome!

Thank you!

—Gwen Hitchcock

* the taxonomic family that contains bees, wasps & ants

That Was a Very Good Year

David Hardy has a significant birthday next month. He will be 80 years young (although he will only admit to being 35). If you see him at the bar his tipple is either a scotch or or an ale.

--Jackie Twine

Make Room! Make Room!

Rumours of police brutality during today's quickly-suppressed Occupy Ops demonstration have been denied by rapidly setting con chair Pat McMurray, who pointed to the large number of bodies concealed behind the science displays on the ground floor as proof of his good intentions.

Don't Obstruct the Walkways

It makes them soggy and hard to light.

Programme changes

The **Steampunk Jewellery Workshop** has been cancelled; our apologies. Rumours that this was because we needed all the resin to plasticise Pat into a living monument to the glory of Mancunicon may have been slightly exaggerated.

New item: there will be a discussion of the **Future of Eastercon** statistics at 10am on Monday in Room 6. A chance for approximately 17 of you to view and discuss the statistics from the FOE Questionnaire, as offered in today's discussion. *[I've read these and they're more interesting than you think —Ed.]*

A practical workshop on Eastercon joining options is ongoing in the downstairs lobby. Marvel at Follycon's iPad-enabled 21st century cloud-busting internet payment website! Thrill at ~~CooperCon~~ Innominate's retro triplicate graphite transfer system! Compare the two as you seamlessly join both seated Eastercons! NB: There will be a small charge (of £60 and £55) for this workshop to cover materials.

Channelling Charnock

There's still time to cash in your *I-Spy at the Eastercon* booklet (*tinyurl.com/ispypdf*) for a super fun prize. As one bemused neo explained, "Yes, I've read a fanzine. I went to the 'Welcome to Eastercon' panel and Caroline Mullan gave me her second-hand *Vibrator*. I found it completely impenetrable."

Craft Beer Revolution

The pop-up craft beer stall has moved up to the upstairs bar. The newsletter team has been comprehensively testing the craft beer and assures you that it's all excellent. We were particularly impressed by the beading beer, the hand-spun knitting beer, and the tiny resin models of beehives beer. *Hic.*

All the Bees

As in 2015, we'll have a page on the Mancunicon website linking to all your photos, reviews and reports about the convention. Email them to us at *dancewaggle@gmail.com* and we'll put them all online. We'll also be keeping a look out for interesting stuff appearing on Twitter and elsewhere.

Just Beecause

We still have a very few Mancunicon bee t-shirts left, available for £12 from Judi Hodgkin's stall in the dealers' room.

Take Eastercon Home With You

Both the 2017 Eastercon, Innominate, and the 2018 Eastercon, Follycon, have set up their social media accounts so that you can all keep in touch. Innominate can be found at @Eastercon2017 and as Eastercon2017 on Facebook, and Follycon can be found as @Follycon2018, www.facebook.com/Follycon2018, and as Follycon on Tumblr. Go add them!

Overheard and then Rapidly Censored on Twitter

Thanks to the person who keeps misreading Mancunicon as Mankinicon. Thanks for the photo, too. We think. We decided you all could live without seeing it, and we didn't dare ask Sue if she could draw us a bee in a mankini, in case she said "of course darling; let me get my sketchbook". Probably for the best.

Restaurant Review
Hotel Restaurant

Downstairs. Down all the stairs.

We had dinner in the hotel, discarding con food, enjoying the hotel's proper Podium menu (very good, although of course not *quite* at con prices), and came out very satisfied after lovely soup, great steak, nice pavlova, and a Costa macchiato.

—Jan van 't Ent

Evuna

277 Deansgate

The Evuna tapas restaurant is a very short stagger up Deansgate and has been fully booked the last couple of nights. Tonight they had free tables and we were right in there. The food was excellent and we have converted a previously skeptical vegetarian to the idea of tapas. Chickpeas, chorizo and black pudding was especially good.

—Steve Davies

Art Auction

Please could anyone who hasn't yet paid for purchases from the Art Auction go along to Ops and do so tomorrow morning.

This issue was produced by Alison Scott, with help from Jan van 't Ent, Mike Scott, Flick, Sue Mason, Steven Cain, Giulia De Ceasare and Steve Davies. All the bees by Sue Mason. So many bees. The bees, the bees… I might be becoming a bit deranged…

Waggle Dance

Issue 6: Monday **newsletter@mancunicon.org.uk**

Goodbye!

We've had a fabulous time this weekend in Manchester, and I hope that you have too.

Thank you to all our Guests, volunteers and other people who've made this convention great.

Have a safe journey home, and we hope to see you all next year in Birmingham!

–Pat McMurray, Chair

Vive La Revolution!

According to a Reuters article, *Secrets of the Honey Bee*, "Queen Elizabeth has 10 times the lifespan of workers and lays up to 2000 eggs per day". Remember what we told you about global search and replace, boys and girls?

Fan Funds

An auction of excitement, adventure and really wild things. Claire stuffed wads of notes in boxes, while DougS, James, Carrie, Mary, Fiona, Kylie, Anna and I made sure that people and their money were soon parted. Michael Abbott and Zoe Sumra successfully bid for the sessions with the Gollancz editors and Malcolm Hutchison bagged the honour of being killed messily in the 3rd book of Ian McDonald's Luna series. A wonderful time was had by all and £866 was raised, to be split evenly between TAFF and GUFF.

–Jim Mowatt

Lost

If someone has my Science Museum "Spacewalk" hoodie, please take it to Ops.

–Raj (aka Starfire)

Found

Ops have in their possession:

- A few bits of jewellery (square earring, blue beaded earring, beaded necklace)
- A pair of glasses
- A fabric glasses case
- A yellow carrier bag containing a grey hooded cloak (in original packaging)
- A black velvet hair band
- An Olympus Li-ion battery
- A set of bluetooth earphones
- A copy of *Postcolonianism and Science Fiction* and
- A brown leather and canvas bag.

From the Gripe Session

It's always a good sign when the Gripe Session is poorly attended. Steve Cooper took advice for next year, but highlights included:

- The 30 minute gap between items, good or bad?
- Lifts. Never again!
- The desire for age restriction in the Teen Lounge/Games Room
- What happened to sign-up sheets for games?
- Access issues and the need to keep checking the rooms
- The terrible chemical smell in the Dealers' Room
- Inconsistent con food and poor vegetarian options
- The awesomeness of breakfast
- The lack of programme items suitable for both adults and kids.

Real Ale

The Real Ale has finally all sold out, beating estimates of midday Sunday by a good 24 hours. Well done all!

All the Bees

Don't forget, the Mancunicon website will be linking to your photos, reviews and reports about the convention. Email *dancewaggle@gmail.com* with a link and we'll put them all online.

This issue was produced by Steve Davies, Jan van t'Ent, Alison Scott, Flick and Marianne Cain, Masthead by Sue Mason. Farewell from the Plokta Penthouse, resplendent with orchids, jacuzzis and a superb view of the wide variety of Manchester weather covering the full range from hail to rain to more rain. See you next year in Birmingham.

Tremble Dance

Issue @: Monday **newsletter@mancunicon.org.uk**

Convention Notices

Following reports of a terrible chemical smell in the Dealers' Room, a large amount of a suspicious resinous substance has been found behind one of the tables. Manchester drug squad are investigating but the committee have denied all liability. Pat's location is still unconfirmed.

As Easy As A, B, C…

In 2016, a crack Ops team were falsely accused by a committee of working a convention without any beer.

They promptly escaped from their maximum security storage into the British con underground.

Today, still wanted by that committee, they survive as gophers of fortune.

If you have a con, if no one else can help you, and if you can sober them up, maybe you can hire *The Black Ops Team!*

Gripe, Gripe, Gripe! Who's Got the Gripe?

Due to the lack of gripes at this year's gripe session, we are introducing the Groats-for-Gripes programme where a groat will be issued for each unique Eastercon complaint, with a maximum of three gripes per complainant.

Building on the success of the 30 minute gaps between programme items in 20 seater rooms, future Eastercons are planning one hour gaps between programme items in 10 seater rooms to allow maximal opportunity for social queueing and to allow members the feeling of exclusivity and special little snowflakeness.

We have have multiple reports of people camping in panels. Please do not erect tents in front of the chairs in programme rooms; it prevents fellow con-goers from seeing the stage.

Following complaints about swearing in the games room, all under-16s will in future be encased in a hermetically sealed polythene bubble wrapped in cotton wool for the duration of the Eastercon.

Panel Report

I can confirm that all panels are improved by having Fangorn rush in halfway through explaining that he's jolly tipsy but has checked Wikipedia on the panel topic.

Breaking News

Pat McMurray continues to deny reports that French police will be called in to break up the notorious "Jungle" camp in Room 6.

An Apology

We're sorry for the terrible groat shortage. It appears that all the groats were being hoarded by junior members of the newsletter staff, who were saving up to buy the entire contents of the Dealers' Room.

A Christmas Carol

The ghost of Abigail Frost looked sadly around the newsroom. There were the hardcore team of reporters, frantically typing up apologies for the real ale having run out. But where was the smoke?

(Rumours that the newsletter team is having Flick exorcised are not exaggerated all that much).

Farewell

See you all at Innomnomnomicon next year!

This issue was produced by Steve Davies, with help from some unspecified people who should remain nameless. Masthead by Sue Mason (whom God preserve!). Wait, is that a mankini or a beekini?